

## 11<sup>th</sup> SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “RIJEKA AND CITIZENS OF RIJEKA IN THE MEDICAL BACKGROUND” (RIJEKA I RIJEČANI U MEDICINSKOJ POVJESNICI)

The 11<sup>th</sup> scientific conference “Rijeka and citizens of Rijeka in the medical background” was held on December 8, 2010 at the School of Medicine at the University of Rijeka.

The conference was organized by the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture and Department for Social Sciences and Humanities in Medicine of the School of Medicine in Rijeka, with the participation of the co-organizer, *Jadran - Galenski laboratorij* from Rijeka and *Medico Polyclinic*, also from Rijeka. The sponsors of the conference were Primorje-Gorski kotar County and the City of Rijeka. According to the number of presentations entered, this year's conference was just behind the jubilar 10<sup>th</sup> conference held a year ago, thus confirming the continuous and long-term interest of researchers of various professional profiles to participate in it. The conference saw 19 presentations held by 34 authors from Croatia and neighbouring countries Slovenia and Serbia, thereby affirming the international character of this scientific conference once more.

The conference was opened with an introductory lecture by Ante Škrobonja (Rijeka), who presented recent publications of the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture – two this year's issues of the AMHA magazine and two latest books in the AMHA Collection. It was followed by a systematic overview of the first decade of the scientific conference “Rijeka and citizens of Rijeka in the medical background” prepared by Igor Eterović (Rijeka). The overview comprised qualitative and quantitative determinants of all previous conferences and highlighted the conference's regional, national and international importance.

The first session of lectures, bearing the title of this year's conference central topic, "Pharmacy and private medical practice in Rijeka in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: success based on rich tradition", started with the lecture of Miljenko Smokvina (Rijeka), giving an overview of Rijeka's economic development from the end of 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century with a special emphasis on the intensive development of health care in this period. Ivo Usmiani (Rijeka) presented two decades of successful business activities of the pharmaceutical company *Jadran – Galenski laboratorij* from Rijeka, after which Milan Blažević (Rijeka) and Vladimir Mozetič (Rijeka) presented the development of private medical practice in Rijeka since its beginnings in 1990s up to now on the example of the development of respectable private polyclinic *Medico* from Rijeka. Iva Rinčić (Rijeka) discussed socially responsible business on the example of *Jadran – Galenski laboratorij* from Rijeka, presenting levels and mechanisms of socially responsible business in that company. Ms Rinčić also pointed out the activities which could be bearers of the future advancement of such business activities in this company. The last lecture of the first session was held by Amir Muzur (Rijeka). He presented pharmacists and physicians whose ideas and patents made them a part of medical history, and who were personally or professionally connected with Opatija at the transition of the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among others, special attention was given to Leo Sternbach, the inventor of diazepam, born in Opatija.

The following three sessions referred to free topics. The paper by three authors, Eduard Pavlović (Rijeka), Ljubomir Radovančević (Zagreb) and Paula Jovanović (Rijeka), containing the biography of Josip Josif Pančić, was presented by Mr Pavlović. Josip Josif Pančić (1814-1888), a versatile scientist, was a member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb and the first president of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade. As a botanist he described around 100 species unknown up to that point, the most well-known of which is *Picea omorika*, named after him. Robert Matijašić (Pula) presented a tragic event from 1938 the consequence of which was the death of the head physician of Pula, Ortensio Pepi. Mr Matijašić dedicated his paper to the deceased surgeon in Pula, Dr Vilijam Bilić. The legacy of Dr Alfred von Bernath Lendway (1836 – 1924), kept in the Mažuranić–Brlić–Ružić heritage library, was presented by Theodor de Canziani (Rijeka). The paper presented to the wider public the biography of this pharmacist, inventor and honorary member of the Romanian Academy. The last lecture of the morning session was held by Ksenija Slavec (Ljubljana), who presented the profes-



Figure 1 Lecturers and the chairmen in the first part of the conference

sional career of the head physician Franjo Radšel (1899 – 1987), marked by dedicated work on combating tuberculosis in northwest Slovenia between 1926 and 1976.

The afternoon session was opened by Zvonka Zupanič Slavec (Ljubljana) in an overview of successful epigenetic identification of 18 skulls from the family tomb of the Counts of Celje. The topic of the co-authored paper by Anja Petaros (Rijeka), Mislav Čavka (Zagreb) and Valter Stemberga (Rijeka) on the implementation of new technologies and development of new methods in paleopathology, was presented by Ms Petaros. The critique of alchemical practice in the records of the renaissance physician, cosmographer and astrologist Federico Grisogono (1472 – 1538) from Zadar, was discussed by Snježana Paušek Baždar (Zagreb). It was followed by the lecture of Suzana Inić (Zagreb), who presented the results of the research on the scientific work of the first pharmacognosy professor at the University of Zagreb, Julije Domac (1853 – 1928), and his contribution to the development of chemistry and pharmacy. The co-author of this paper is Nikola Kujundžić (Zagreb).

The last session of the conference began with the lecture of Franc Urlep (Ljubljana) on health care provided in the Velenje coal mine since the beginnings of its work at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century till mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The lecture highlighted the role of the first owner of the coal mine, noble Daniel Lapp, and the insurance company *Bratovsko društvo* in developing health care and support for the miners. The background of the lecture of Lejla Peternelj Uran (Koper) on the development of ophthalmology in Slovenia and the Eye Clinic in Ljubljana, made in cooperation with Zvonka Zupanič Slavec (Ljubljana), was the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the aforementioned clinic. The beginnings of Slovenian ophthalmology are connected with Ludvik Grbec (1805 – 1880), the first Slovenian ophthalmologist, and nowadays it takes up a respectable position within this medical profession. Duša Fischinger (Ljubljana) presented the results of the research she conducted in cooperation with Aleš Fischinger (Ljubljana) and Janez Fischinger (Ljubljana), on the emergence and the first decade of work of the Volunteer Fire Fighting and Rescuing Association of the Opatija Sanatorium (*Dobrovoljno vatrogasno i spasavajuće društvo lječilišta Opatije*). The Association was founded in 1901 by uniting two associations, Volunteer Fire Fighting Association Opatija (*Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo Opatija*), 1886, and Volunteer Rescuing Association Opatija (*Dobrovoljno spasavajuće društvo Opatija*), 1894. The foundation and development of the first state pharmacy in Serbia was the topic of the following lecture, presented by Leontina Kerčan (Belgrade). The first state



Figure 2 Working atmosphere in the audience

pharmacy in Serbia was founded in 1836 in Kragujevac, then transferred to Belgrade in 1841, and a branch office was founded in 1853 in Kragujevac. The lecture prepared is the result of research work carried out by Ms Kerničan, along with Dušica Krajnović (Belgrade), Dragana Jocić (Belgrade), Dragan Stupar (Belgrade), Marija Gašić (Kragujevac) and Brezana Perić (Belgrade). In the last lecture of the conference Ana Lesac (Rijeka) analysed the iconography of St. Sebastian, emphasising his role as the patron saint against plague.

The lectures were followed by discussion on the presented topics, after which Prof. Dr. Sc. Ante Škrobonja, the president of the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture and Prof. Dr. Sc. Amir Muzur, head of Department for Social Sciences and Humanities in Medicine, summarised this year's conference.

The 11<sup>th</sup> scientific conference "Rijeka and citizens of Rijeka in the medical background" fully met the organizers' expectations. According to the number of lectures and the versatility of the topics presented, the conference has once more confirmed the great interest of the wider scientific community into the research of the past of health culture in the region and highlighted the value of its promotion at conferences like this one.

Robert Doričić